Underutilisation of plant capacities in IDPL

2942. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1263 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th August, 1990 and state:

(a) what is the total estimated requirement of Vitamin B6 in the country;

(b) what are the reasons of unutilised capacity of Vitamin B6 by IDPL;

(c) whether it is a fact that IDPL is deliberately reducing the production of Vitamin B6 and increasing the price;

(d) what are the reasons for price decontrol of Vitamin B6 when there are only two producers and the turnover is more than Rs. Fifty lacs;

(e) whether his Ministry is taking any steps to investigate into the affairs of IDPL;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof;

(g) what steps are being taken either to utilise the plant fully or to dispose it off: and

(h) what are the details of other plants of IDPL which are underutilised and to what percentage and what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) The estimated demand for Vitamin B6 is about 58 Tonnes.

(b) The licensed and installed capacity of IDPL for Vitamin B6 is 50 Tonnes and 30 Tonnes respectively. Actual production of this item by IDPL during last three years was as under :—

1987-88 . . .	12·64 Tonnes
1988-89 . . .	15·19 Tonnes
1989-90 . . .	8·49 Tonnes

Due to sluggish offtake resulting in accumulation of inventory the production was trimmed down. However, certain equipments were commonly utilised for the production of Vitamin B6 and Chloroquin Phosphate to meet the requirements of National Malaria Eradication Programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The decontrol of this Vitamin as a bulk drug was done on the recommendation of the Kelkar Committee.

(e) and (f) Government is reviewing the reasons for sickness of IDPL for considering a restructuring and rehabilitation plan for the company.

(g) The production of B6 is regulated to meet the market demand. The spare capacity of part of the equipment is utilised in the manufacture of Chloroquin Phosphate to meet the requirements of National Malaria Eradication Programme.

(h) The details of underutilisation of less than 10% for major bulk drugs are attached. (*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 100).

Announcement of new drug policy by Government

2943. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new policy on drugs is likely to be